

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-02 IO-13 ACDA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /081 W

-----129543 290725Z /16

R 290602Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3314

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 1634

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PGOV, BU, UR, US

SUBJECT: FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV

REF: SOFIA 1630

1. DURING MY FAREWELL CALL ON ZHIVKOV JULY 28, HE ASKED THAT HIS PERSONAL THANKS BE CONVEYED TO PRESIDENT CARTER FOR HAVING RECEIVED ZHIVKOV'S DAUGHTER, LYUDMILLA (WHO WAS INCLUDED IN PRESIDENT'S PARTY FOR AMERICAN ARTISTS JUNE 14). HE APPRECIATED THIS NOT ONLY AS A PERSONAL GESTURE TO SOMEONE WHO IS CLOSE TO HIM, BUT ALSO AS A POSITIVE ELEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES IN VIEW OF LYUDMILLA ZHIVKOVA'S IMPORTANT POSITION IN THE GOVERNMENT AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMITTEE OF CULTURE.

2. ZHIVKOV ALSO ASKED THAT THE PRESIDENT BE INFORMED OF HIS WISHES FOR HIM OF "HEALTH AND SUCCESS IN HIS ACTIVITIES."

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AT ANOTHER POINT OF THE INTERVIEW, HOWEVER, AND WITHOUT ASKING THAT THIS BE CONVEYED TO THE PRESIDENT, HE COMPLAINED ABOUT "PEOPLE AROUND YOUR PRESIDENT WHO ARE GIVING HIM BAD ADVICE" DETRIMENTAL TO DETENTE AND TENDING TO REVIVE THE COLD WAR.

3. EXCEPT FOR THIS RITUAL OBEISANCE TO THE MOSCOW PROPA-

GANDA LINE, THE INTERVIEW WAS UPBEAT IN ITS ENTIRETY. ZHIVKOV AGAIN SAID HE WAS QUITE AWARE THAT THE US CAN MAKE OUT VERY NICELY WITHOUT BULGARIA, BUT HE THOUGHT THERE WERE MUTUAL ADVANTAGES IN COOPERATION AND LOOKED TO A MAJOR EXPANSION OF ECONOMIC AND OTHER INTERCOURSE AS SOON AS THE "DISCRIMINATION" OF MFN IS REMOVED. HE SAID THE USUAL FLATTERING THINGS ONE SAYS TO DEPARTING AMBASSADORS, BUT PERHAPS AT SOMEWHAT MORE EMBARRASSING LENGTH.

4. AM REPORTING BY AIRGRAM A LENGTHY DISQUISITION BY ZHIVKOV ABOUT WHY IT IS NONSENSE TO SPECULATE THAT BULGARIA MIGHT SOME DAY BECOME THE SIXTEENTH SOCIALIST SOVIET REPUBLIC ("EVEN THE PEOPLE WOULD OBJECT") AND WHY RUMORS THAT ERSTWHILE NUMBER TWO BORIS VELCHEV WAS REMOVED OVER POLICY DIFFERENCES ARE DEVOID OF ANY FOUNDATION. ZHIVKOV CLAIMED THAT VELCHEV HAD SIMPLY BEEN "RETIRED" BECAUSE HE HAD BECOME LESS EFFECTIVE IN HIS WORK, ALSO MORE CRANKY AND LESS INTERESTED IN PARTY ORGANIZATION IN THE BOONDOCKS, "AND PERHAPS ALSO OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT HIS FAMILY." HERZ

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** GS  
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**Subject:** FAREWELL CALL ON PRESIDENT ZHIVKOV  
**TAGS:** PDIP, PGOV, BU, UR, US, (ZHIVKOV)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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